

Description of goods.	No. of pkgs.	Quantity	Country of origin.	Value in rupees.
		Types of arms.		Amount
11. Fuses	729	Fuses	Russia	229005
12. Gun powder	194 c/s		Sweden	39600
				Kgs.
13. Trigger for colt M/gun.	1		U.S.A.	6845
				87,38,437

Customs Department No. S.8(iv)C1 of 1939

Dated Rangoon, the 23rd May 1939

Forwarded to the Secretary to the Financial Commission

(2) Burma, Rangoon, for information with reference to Department of Lands and Revenue endorsement No. 393X038 Part II, dated the 14th February 1939.

Sd.P.W.Singleton

Collector of Customs, Rangoon.

Registry Number

F 6165/28/10.

FROM Dominions Office.

No. F. 10/349.

Dated 20th June, 1939.

Received in Registry 21st June, 1939

F:China

Last Paper.

F-6162

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

F9 Shanghai No 597  
June 30

(Action completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

7 6251

F

1939

CHINA

F 6165

343

21 JUN 1939

Intention of Mr. William Bosman to visit South Africa in order to raise funds for purchase of arms for China.

Refers to Foreign Office letter of 19th November, 1937 (N 5640/3011/38/1937). Transmits copy letter of 6th June (with enclosures) from High Commissioner for South Africa with enclosures giving information regarding Mr. William (or Walter) Bosman a Union National who recently called at South Africa House and announced this intention. Mr. Bosman was educated in Hong Kong. He is said to be a brother of Sir Robert Ho Tung and his Chinese name is Ho Yau Kai.

Delayed for pp

(Minutes.)

Any copy Shanghai

for Mr. Kinnier Major

26.6.

Mr. Follics.

What this document does not say is that Mr. Bosman is the brother of Sir Robert Ho Tung. (There is a large N. file about him).

(file N3011/38/1937  
(W 4652/90/98/1938  
no pp 1939

June 30th



D.O. 3.

Communications on this subject  
should be addressed to—  
THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE,  
DOMINIONS OFFICE,  
DOWNING STREET, LONDON, S.W.1,  
and the following number quoted:—

F. 10/349

F.O.

2c/Please 344

Subject: Information re  
Mr. William Bosman.

F 6165

21 JUN 1939

Reference to previous correspondence:

Letter <sup>to</sup> ~~from~~ the Dominions Office of the 19.11.37 —

N. 5640/3011/38

Transmitted by direction of the Secretary of State for  
Dominion Affairs.

A copy has also been sent to the

Dominions Office, Downing Street,

193

20 JUN 1939

(\*1326) WL 25174-3707 20,000 10/37 T.S. 695



UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.

South Africa House,  
Trafalgar Square,  
London, W.C. 2.

6th June, 1939.

Sir,

I have the honour, by direction of the High Commissioner, to state for the information of Secretary Sir Thomas Inskip that about a year ago a certain William Bosman, a Union National, called at this office and mentioned that he intended visiting the Union to raise funds in Johannesburg for the purchase of arms for China. As the appearance and personality of this gentleman was rather unusual, informal enquiries concerning him were made at the Foreign Office and simultaneously the authorities in Pretoria were consulted.

I enclose a copy of a memorandum drawn up at the time containing the information that was then available and I also enclose a copy of a letter that has now been received from the Honorary Trade Commissioner for the Union at Shanghai.

The press cuttings referred to in this letter are unfortunately undated, but they contain the following statements which if correct, throw some light on Mr. Bosman.

(1) He was educated at the former Central Government School, now known as Queen's College, Hong Kong.

(2) He left Hong Kong in 1883, being the first Government scholar to go to England to study civil engineering.

(3)

The Under Secretary for State,  
Dominions Office,  
Downing Street,  
S.W. 1.



(3) After qualifying in England he worked for the Natal Government as Director of Public Works and Surveys in Zululand, later acting as British Commissioner in defining the Anglo-Portuguese border, and later being appointed Assistant Engineer for the Colony. He also served in the Boer War and the Natal Rebellion.

(4) He made two visits to Hong Kong (apparently in 1937 and 1938), these being the only occasions on which he returned to the Colony since 1883.

(5) He has made a donation, or donations to the University at Hong Kong. One cutting refers to an endowment of 100,000 dollars to provide a scholarship of 1,000 dollars a year for a student to study languages and medicine, another cutting mentions an endowment of 50,000 dollars, while a third cutting states that since Mr. Bosman's return to South Africa, he has spent £3,000 this being the first instalment of what he wishes to be called the "Peace Scholarship". This amount of £3,000 is half the total he proposes to give. The general conditions governing the award of the scholarship have still to be settled. It is impossible to judge from the cuttings whether the sums mentioned refer to one or more endowments.

(6) Mr. Bosman, who incidentally is always referred to as Captain Bosman, has published in Hong Kong a book called "Lands Unknown" in which he describes amongst other things his journey from England to China, which from Paris to Bombay was done by motor car and trailer. Employing these means of transport he passed through eighteen countries in a journey of 18,2000 miles.

As Mr. Bosman appears to be both a wanderer and an original character, information concerning him may be of use  
to



to the British Government, and the High Commissioner considers that it may serve a good purpose if you will be so kind as to make this information available to the Foreign Office.

I have, etc.,

(Sd) W.G. PARMINTER.

Political Secretary.



MEMORANDUMRe William Bosman

William Bosman, holder of a Union Passport, visited the High Commissioner and said he was returning to the Union and hoping to be able to raise funds for the purchase of arms for China.

Bosman is a man of about 70 years of age, and looks like a Chinaman. Enquiries made have resulted in conflicting information. One source alleges that Bosman is the brother of Sir Robert Ho Tung, a wellknown personality in Hong Kong: that Bosman settled in Natal as a child and adopted the name of Bosman: that he has travelled extensively in China and Russia and is alleged to be well known there, and that recently he with his wife, child and a nurse, travelled by motor caravan through Russia, Persia, India and China.

On the other hand, he is stated to have resided for the last five years in the Union where he is known as Walter Bosman, and is believed to be a European with the features of a Chinaman: that he is an engineer, a man of considerable means and interested in the Natal Coal Industry; and that he is also an artist and paints pictures of the country he visits on his travels.



Honorary Trade Commissioner  
for the Union of South Africa,  
110 Hankow Road,  
Shanghai.

6th May, 1939.

The Political Secretary  
to the High Commissioner,  
South Africa House,  
Trafalgar Square,  
London, W.C. 2.

Dear Sir,

When I was in London last autumn, His Excellency the High Commissioner mentioned that he would like to have some information regarding W. Bosman, formerly of HongKong.

During a recent visit to that centre I was able to obtain some particulars and am enclosing details furnished by the principal of Queen's College.

I am also enclosing some cuttings from a Hong Kong daily which appeared during Bosman's visits to the Colony during the last few years. I am indebted to Mr. W.J. Carrie, the Secretary for Chinese Affairs for this interesting information.

Bosman's Chinese name is Ho Yau Kai. I understand there were four brothers; Sir Robert Ho Tung is one; the fathers were all different. Old residents of the Colony can tell a good deal of the family and the name Bosman is well known by them.

I hope the enclosed will furnish the desired information.

I am, etc.,

(Sd) P.D.G. GAIN.

Hon. Trade Commissioner.



P.10/349

12 June, 1939.

Sir,

I am directed by Secretary Sir Thomas Inskip to acknowledge, with thanks, the receipt of your letter of the 6th June, concerning Mr. William Bosman, and to state that the information contained therein has been transmitted to the Foreign Office.

I am, Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) G. W. DIXON

THE SECRETARY,  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR THE UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA.